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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/063,042	03/14/2002	Jason T. Lenz	S63.2-10057	2208
490	7590	04/07/2006	EXAMINER	
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A. 6109 BLUE CIRCLE DRIVE SUITE 2000 MINNETONKA, MN 55343-9185			WEBB, SARAH K	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3731

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/063,042	LENZ, JASON T.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sarah K. Webb	3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-29 are objected to because of the following informalities: the terms “spline” and “splines” can be confused with “reciprocating splines.” It would be more clear to the reader to define the “spline” and “splines” with another term, such as “first spline” and “first splines.” Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 1-6,11,13-17,22, and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,270,524 to Kim.

Kim discloses a stent structure that includes a plurality of serpentine bands (14) with alternating peaks and troughs joined by longitudinal connectors (22). There are “splines” (28) and “reciprocating splines” extending from the peaks and troughs towards adjacent bands (column 10, lines 64 – column 9, line 10). As shown in Figures 4B and 4C, a peak can include only one spline (column 11, lines 12-19). Figure 6 more clearly shows that the splines extend from a side of the peak. A plurality of the splines is in “substantial” longitudinal alignment. This structure is also considered to meet the limitation that a spline and reciprocating spline cross a common circumference of the stent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 7-10,12,18-21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of WO 00/30563 (Brown).

Kim fails to form the serpentine bands to alternate between different wavelengths and amplitudes. Brown discloses a stent structure in Figure 2 with serpentine bands connected by longitudinal connectors. Brown teaches that forming alternating bands to have different wavelengths and amplitudes avoids the problem of pinching and overlap between adjacent bands (pages 2-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the bands of the Kim stent to alternate between different wavelengths and amplitudes, as taught by Brown, in order to avoid pinching and overlap.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 1/17/06 with regards to the 102 rejection of claims 11 and 22 under Kim have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The splines extending from the peaks of one band are inherently capable of contacting a trough of an adjacent band in the expanded form. As shown in Figure 3A, the stent may be bent in the expanded form to follow the curve of a vessel. As illustrated on the right-hand side of the stent, adjacent bands are contacting one another. This capability is considered to meet the claim limitations.

Art Unit: 3731

5. Applicant's arguments, see page 8, filed 1/17/06, with respect to the rejection under Smith, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-6,24,25,28, and 29 under Smith has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah K. Webb whose telephone number is (571) 272-4706. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3731

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SKW

SKW

3/31/06

Julian W.Woo

JULIAN W. WOO
PRIMARY EXAMINER